(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The inflation of essential items has moderated in the recent months. WPI based monthly composite inflation of 30 essential commodities for the last three years is indicated below:

Monthly inflation for essential commodities (%)

Month	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Apr	4.55	4.38	5.91	3.26
May	4.91	3.33	7.64	1.67
Jun	4.90	3.10	8.59	0.85
Jul	4.83	4.30	5.44	2.84
Aug	4.81	4.23	5.30	2.73
Sep	5.87	3.26	7.24	1.19P
Oct	5.30	4.04	7.66	0.50P
Nov	4.98	5.23	6.63	
Dec	5.25	4.62	6.42	
Jan	6.09	3.86	5.14	
Feb	3.88	5.14	4.24	
Mar	3.74	5.71	3.38	

P-Provisional

(c) and (d) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items on that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Promotion in the Central Excise Department

1569. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many promotions were made in the Central Excise Department from Inspector to superintendent from Group -B to Group-A and within Group-A cadres during the last three financial years;

(b) the charge-wise details of General, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class category in the above; and

(c) the details of backlog in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Home Loan interest rate

1570. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in interest rates of Housing Loan from the year 2002 till date;

(b) whether the number of persons taking Home Loan has been decreasing due to increasing rate of interest on Home Loan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;